

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12  
/088 W

-----022807 161621Z /53

O R 161540Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0218  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 0281

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, GDS  
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: IN THE WAKE OF POSTPONED TALKS, BOTHA PRAISES  
SAG'S EFFORTS, HINTS AT INTERNAL SETTLEMENT

REF: PRETORIA 0254

1. LOCAL HANDLING OF DATE FOR PROXIMITY TALKS HAS TENDED  
TO BLAME SWAPO AND THE WESTERN FIVE FOR DELAYING TACTICS.  
BOTHA GAVE AN SABC NEWS INTERVIEW ON JANUARY 11 IN WHICH,  
IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, HE WOULD NOT CONTRADICT THE  
SUGGESTION THAT THE U.S. WAS PUTTING UP "STUMBLING  
BLOCKS" TO THE TALKS. THE LOCAL PRESS LINE HAS GENERALLY  
BEEN THAT THE SAG HAS BEEN MORE THAN FORTHCOMING BY  
AGREEING TO TWO ALTERNATE DATES, JANUARY 17 AND  
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JANUARY 23. ONE ACCOUNT, IN THE SAG-SPONSORED  
"CITIZEN", SAYS THE U.S. IS TRYING TO "SMEAR" BOTHA BY  
SAYING PRIVATELY THAT HE IS TRYING TO DESTROY TALKS  
"FOR HIS OWN ENDS." THIS ACCOUNT STATES THAT THE U.S.  
KNOWS FULL WELL THAT PARLIAMENTARY DEMANDS WILL KEEP  
BOTHA FROM ATTENDING DURING FEBRUARY. IT ALSO ACCUSES  
THE U.S. OF WITHHOLDING INFORMATION ON NUJOMA'S ILLNESS

FROM THE SAG AND ITS WESTERN FIVE PARTNERS. THE U.S., IT SAYS, KNEW ALL ALONG THAT NUJOMA WOULD NOT BE PRESENT FOR ORIGINAL PROXIMITY TALKS. OTHER ACCOUNTS, IN THE "STAR" AND "RAND DAILY MAIL", CITE THE TROUBLE THAT BOTHA WENT THROUGH TO CANCEL OTHER MEETINGS IN ORDER TO ACCEPT THE TWO JANUARY DATES FOR TALKS AND SAY THAT THE SAG IS NOT BEING DIFFICULT AND HAS SHOWN "ITS BONA FIDES" BY AGREEING TO THE TWO DATES. THE "STAR" ACCOUNT SAYS THAT IT HAS "RELIABLY" LEARNED THAT BRAND FOURIE WILL ATTEND THE TALKS IN FEBRUARY AS A PART OF THE SAG'S "CONTINUING EFFORTS TO COMPLY WITH PROPOSALS...FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION." (COMMENT: IN MEETING WITH FOURIE IN CAPE TOWN THIS MORNING HE DENIED THIS REPORT SAYING DECISION REGARDING SAG PARTICIPATION IS PENDING CABINET CONSIDERATION NEXT TUESDAY (JANUARY 24.)

2. BOTHA HAS FOLLOWED UP THESE ORCHESTRATED REACTIONS TO THE CANCELLED TALKS WITH A MAJOR INTERVIEW ON SABC-TV ON JANUARY 15 IN WHICH HE PRAISES THE SAG'S EFFORTS AND HINTS THAT THEY MAY BE READY TO GO FOR AN INTERNAL SOLUTION NOW. THE INTERVIEW WAS IN AFRIKAANS BUT, ACCORDING TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS REPORTS, BOTHA SAID THE SAG WAS AT THE POINT OF GOING AHEAD WITH INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA EVEN IF THE FIVE POWER TALKS FAIL. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE "MIGHT NOT" BE FORTHCOMING BUT SAID "IF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PRICE FOR INTERNATIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IS SO HIGH THAT SUCH A TERRITORY OR COUNTRY OR ITS PEOPLE IN ANY EVENT COME TO DESTRUCTION, OR GET INVOLVED IN A WAR OR CONFLICT, THEN IT STANDS TO REASON THAT THE PRICE FOR INTERNATIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IS TOO HIGH." IN SUCH A CASE, BOTHA SAID, A COUNTRY MUST PROCEED ON ITS OWN, PLAN CAREFULLY AND HOPE THAT INTERNATIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT COMES LATER. HE SAID THAT SAG HAS "BEEN MORE THAN REASONABLE AND THAT THERE IS A SOLUTION IN SIGHT WHICH CAN BE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE...THE MAIN POINTS ARE THAT WE HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO BRING INDEPENDENCE TO SOUTHWEST AFRICA BEFORE THE END OF 1978; TO GIVE IT ITS INDEPENDENCE AS A UNITARY STATE; TO REMOVE ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON COLOR; TO ALLOW A CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY TO BE ELECTED ON A COMMON FRANCHISE OF ONE-MAN, ONE VOTE; AND TO LET THE SO-CALLED POLITICAL PRISONERS BE INVESTIGATED BY A PANEL OF JURISTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THEY INDEED ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS... SWAPO IS WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE FREELY AND OPENLY-- IN PEACE AND IN PEACEFUL CIRCUMSTANCES...EVERYTHING THE UN HAS ASKED OF US ORIGINALLY HAS BEEN COMPLIED

WITH...NOW, IF THEY STAND BY WHAT THEY HAVE CLAIMED IN  
THE PAST TO BE THE POINTS OF CONFLICT, THEN I SAY WE  
CAN ACCEDE TO THEM. BUT NATURALLY IF THERE ARE OTHER  
OBJECTIVES IN THEIR MIND OF WHICH WE ARE NOT AWARE,  
ABOUT WHICH ONE CAN ONLY GUESS, THOSE WE CANNOT ACCEDE  
TO." BOTHA ADDS THAT "THE ONSLAUGHT AGAINST SWA HAS  
BECOME BURNING AND BIG...IT IS, THEREFORE, OF  
OVERWHELMING IMPORTANCE THAT...THERE SHOULD NOT BE BICKERING  
AND QUARRELING (OVER)...LOCAL MATTERS BUT THAT PRIORITY  
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE SECURITY OF THE TERRITORY AS A  
WHOLE, THE SAFETY OF ALL THE PEOPLES AS A WHOLE AND IF  
THESE PEOPLES SEE IT IN THIS WAY THERE SIMPLY CANNOT BE  
ANY DOUBT THAT THEY WILL JOINTLY BE ABLE TO DRAW UP A  
CONSTITUTION THAT WILL SERVE THE WELL-BEING OF ALL." BOWDLER  
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## Message Attributes

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